CLAIMS

1. A handwriting recognition system comprising:

means responsive to input analogue signals representative of movement of a

5 handheld writing device;

sampling means to provide signals representative of the acceleration of the writing device in at least x axis and y axis channels at a predetermined capture sampling rate; and

filtering means to remove dc level components and to provide smoothing of

10 the output whereby signals representative of movement of the pen over a period are supplied to a classifier for comparison with a template representative of characters formed.

2. A handwriting recognition system as claimed in claim 1, in which the

15 classifier uses a hidden Markov model for comparison purposes.

3. A handwriting recognition system as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, in which the sampling means, filtering means and classifier are implemented in a digital computer environment.

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4. A method of analysing signals from a moving handheld device, the method comprising sampling signals at a predetermined rate, passing signals through a bandpass filter to remove dc level and excess acceleration components, sampling the filtered output to provide a series of vectors representing the position of the handheld

25 device at periodic intervals and using a classifier to compare the sample sets with predetermined templates to determine the character for output.